

revitalized the edge of campus through the Campus Partners initiative. These improvements have enhanced student life, revitalized an urban neighborhood and provided high-quality destinations for the campus community and visitors alike.

With annual research expenditures now at \$652 million a year, Ohio State is ranked 8th among public research universities in the nation by the National Science Foundation based on the amount of sponsored research. Also, the University has risen from 5th to 3rd among public universities in industry-sponsored research. Holbrook presided over the creation of the Undergraduate Research Office to encourage and enable undergraduate students to connect to research projects as part of their educational experience. As a result, more than 300 students now participate in the annual Denman Undergraduate Forum.

Finally, Holbrook has led the University into strong partnerships in the community, especially with renowned research institute Battelle, which includes the Metro High School for students interested in science, technology, engineering and math, the Urban Arts Center, WOSU@COSI (a collaboration of the university's public media stations and the Center for Science and Industry), and the Battelle Center for Mathematics and Science Education Policy at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. These partnerships and initiatives are already bearing fruit, and their impact and importance will only increase down the road.

It is truly a pleasure to have worked with President Holbrook over the last 5 years and to have joined her in efforts that increased the prominence and reputation of a great institution. The Ohio State University is a better place because of Holbrook's leadership, and for that, all Buckeyes are forever in her debt. Go Bucks. Beat Michigan.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY ACT OF 2007

#### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act (MMNTA) of 2007. This legislation is cosponsored by my friends and colleagues Representatives MICHAEL CASTLE (R-DE), DIANA DEGETTE (D-CO) and MARK KIRK (R-IL).

The MMNTA of 2007 authorizes Medicare to expand the use of medical nutrition therapy to treat any disease for which empirical research has shown clinical value. The American Dietetic Association has endorsed this important legislation.

In 2000, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences found that medical nutrition therapy is effective as part of a comprehensive approach to the treatment and management of the following conditions: diabetes, heart failure, kidney failure, dyslipidemia (a total cholesterol condition as well as other abnormalities in blood lipid levels) and hypertension. In response to this study, Congress allowed Medicare to reimburse medical nutrition therapy for beneficiaries with diabetes and renal diseases.

Specifically, the benefit Congress added includes an initial assessment of a beneficiary's nutrition and lifestyle, nutrition counseling, information regarding managing lifestyle factors that affect diet and follow-up visits to monitor the beneficiary's progress. Medicare covers three hours of one-on-one counseling services the first year, and two hours each year after that. The benefit provides additional treatment hours when the beneficiary's condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes and a physician refers the beneficiary. A physician must prescribe these services and renew them yearly if continuing treatment is needed.

In 2004, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report that reiterated that medical nutrition therapy is effective as part of a comprehensive approach to the management and treatment of dyslipidemia (referred to as hyperlipidemia in the HHS report) and hypertension. This study's corroboration of IOM's earlier findings demonstrates that many Medicare beneficiaries who could benefit from this treatment cannot access it through Medicare.

Moreover, expanding the use of medical nutrition therapy has the potential to be a cost effective means of providing health care. Recently, the Pfizer Corporation piloted a 6-month nutrition and exercise intervention program for employees with hyperlipidemia. The study concluded that this intervention reduced Low-density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol 12 months later. And, the participating employees had their risk for heart disease reduced by 19 percent. The intervention could save an estimated \$728,722 annually if offered to the entire Pfizer population.

Unfortunately, the method that Congress established to determine eligibility for medical nutrition therapy is flawed. Congress specified in law which diseases should receive medical nutrition therapy instead of leaving that judgment to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as is the custom for other benefits provided by the program.

CMS has the experts and infrastructure to make these important decisions based on empirical research. As part of its administration of the Medicare program, CMS determines the items and services that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury suffered by Medicare beneficiaries. CMS makes national coverage determinations by evaluating medical literature and data and information on the effectiveness and appropriateness of medical items and services that are being considered for Medicare coverage. During this process, the public has the opportunity to provide comments. In some cases, CMS' own research is supplemented by an outside assessment and/or consultation with a Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MedCAC). A MedCAC consists of outside experts who supplement CMS career staff examination of an issue. These committees examine the strength of available evidence and make recommendations to CMS on coverage decisions.

By passing this legislation, Congress would increase access to medical nutrition therapy to Medicare beneficiaries through a thoughtful and scientific approach. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have the appropriate access to medical nutrition therapy.

#### CONGRATULATING JIMMIE GOLDEN ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to commemorate the 80th birthday of Mr. Jimmie Golden. Mr. Golden is a highly-regarded figure and establishment in the "McDonald's Coffee" group, and his contributions to the group are immeasurable.

The McDonald's Coffee group meets every morning in Milton, a city in my district in Northwest Florida. It is there that a regular group meets to discuss news and current affairs, and Jimmie Golden is a consistent presence. Jimmie is not just there to listen, though—his knowledge in both domestic and foreign affairs is vast. His awareness of the events going on, how the past has affected these events, and the possible implications for the future is worldly by any standard. Those that listen to his input pay close attention as they know Jimmie puts a lot of thought and knowledge into what he says.

Jimmie Golden is not only a great contributor of knowledge and information; he is also a great listener. This listening is not just at the McDonald's Coffee group, either. Jimmie is someone always willing to help others, and he would bend over backwards to better the life of another. Calling Jimmie a humanitarian could be an understatement; he would help every single person if he could. In fact, his service in the United States Navy protecting the freedom our country enjoys accomplished that goal.

Madam Speaker, it is not often enough that a person of Jimmie Golden's caliber comes along, and I am grateful that he calls Northwest Florida home as we recognize and congratulate him on his 80th birthday. Our Nation is a better place because of people like Jimmie.

#### IN MEMORY OF ROY P. LEWSADER, JR.

#### HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor S. Sgt. Roy P. Lewsader, Jr. of Clinton, Indiana, who died on June 16, 2007. While fighting for our country in Afghanistan, a rocket-propelled grenade detonated near his vehicle in Tarin Kowt.

Roy was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He joined the U.S. Army in 1988 and served until his death as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

To serve our country in the U.S. military is an honorable and noble profession. Roy's service to our country in life, as well as in death, epitomizes what it means to be an American hero.

During his more than 13 year service to our country, Roy distinguished himself as soldier and leader. He received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, as well as the Army Achievement Medal three times and the Army Commendation Award.